

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 is canceled herein, and claims 8, 15, 16, and 18-21 are amended herein. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, claims claims 8, and 15-21 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1, 8 and 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,337,712 to Shiota et al. ("Shiota"). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Shiota generally provides that it is **preferable** to have a **plurality of picture image data storing devices so that all kinds of digital cameras, regardless of their types or manufacturers, can be dealt with by this system**. Emphasis added. See column 5, lines 10-28. More specifically, a card reader 2 is installed so that digital cameras using memory cards can be handled by this system. According to Shiota, it is **preferable** to have **plurality kinds of card readers** according to the standard of memory cards such as PCMCIA or SSFDC.

Shiota fails to teach or suggest that the picture image data storing device or the card reader provided in FIGS. 1-3 and corresponding descriptions, "is a single means to identify a type of said digital camera by reading information pre-stored in at least one of said memory of the digital camera and said digital camera, to select a reading method corresponding to said identified type of said digital camera, and to read said photographed image data recorded in said memory of said digital camera using said selected reading method corresponding to said identified type of said digital camera," as recited in independent claim 8.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Shiota discloses "identifying ... of said digital camera". See, for example, claims 8 and 21 relating to such features. However, the camera code of Shiota is used to determine the file name of the picture image (see col. 3, lines 29-46, of Shiota), not to select a reading method corresponding to the identified type of digital camera in the manner recited, for example, in claims 8 and 21. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 21 are clearly distinguishable over Shiota. See also claims 15 and 18 relating to similar features.

Furthermore, according to Shiota, some digital cameras add the date of recording or the like to picture image data as recording property information, and store the picture image data together with the recording property information in built-in memories or memory cards. See column 3, lines 50-55. In this case, a file name may be determined automatically by reading such recording property information, without requesting a user to input the information. However, nothing in Shiota teaches or suggests, "determining whether a transfer service is to be charged for the preserving using the ID data read," as recited in independent claim 16. Shiota fails to broach the concept of making a determination of charging a transfer service of the picture image data.

Rather, according to Shiota, it is convenient for both service providers and customers, since costly equipment and important data are strictly managed at a DPE, that the equipment for the interface portion can be placed as an unmanned service machine in DPES, sightseeing spots, convenience stores, stations or the like. See column 4, lines 43-55. However, nothing is taught or suggested in the cited reference of determining whether a transfer service is to be charged for the preserving using the ID data read. The cited reference is silent as to teaching or suggesting that "the transfer service is charged when the ID data read does not match an ID corresponding to the digital camera," as recited in independent claim 16.

Further, because independent claim 19 includes similar claim features as those recited in independent claim 16, although of different scope, and because the Office Action refers to similar portions of Shiota to reject independent claim 19, the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claim 16 are incorporated herein to support the patentability of independent claim 19.

On page 5 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner quotes the following statement of the Remarks of the Amendment filed March 8, 2004: "Nothing in Shiota teaches or suggests that a file name may be used to determine 'whether a transfer service is to be charged'". It is respectfully submitted that this portion of the Remarks of the Amendment filed March 8, 2004, did not properly recite the specific claim language, and was in error. Instead, it should be noted that claims 16 and 19 specifically recite "ID data recorded in a **storage medium**" is used to determine "whether a transfer service is to be charged". It is respectfully submitted that Shiota does not disclose or suggest that ID data recorded in a storage medium can be used to determine whether a transfer service is to be charged.

Regarding claims 17 and 20, it is respectfully submitted that Shiota does not disclose or suggest collating the ID data in a storage medium and that the camera type is used to determine "whether a transfer service is to be charged".

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

CONCLUSION:

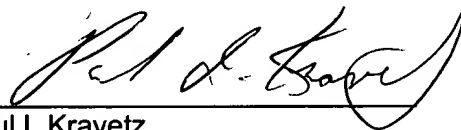
In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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